INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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a. classification of subject matter IPC 7 A47C23/00 A47C A47C7/28 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category 9 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages X DE 317 362 C (PAUL KATTRITZ) 1-4, 8-12,1515 December 1919 (1919-12-15) 16,19-22 the whole document Y 5,6 FR 1 012 674 A (USINES METALLURG DE 5,6 LITERIE) 16 July 1952 (1952-07-16) the whole document WO 93 03652 A (ZHANG YUN HUI) 1-22 Α 4 March 1993 (1993-03-04) the whole document DE 20 46 445 A (DIETMAR WAGNER) 1-22 Α 23 March 1972 (1972-03-23) the whole document Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 29 January 2003 05/02/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Neiller, F

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